GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5257
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Legal Assistance to Deserted Brides
Manjhi Shri Hari

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries where scheme regarding providing legal assistance to Indian women being deserted by their foreigner husbands is being implemented;

(b) whether demands have been raised to launch the scheme in other countries as well;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed by the Government to make the scheme more friendly for such deserted women?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The scheme for providing legal/financial assistance to Indian women cheated, abandoned or abused by overseas Indian spouses is operational in 13 countries namely USA, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

(b) There have been requests to extend the scheme to some more countries.

(c) The Ministry is considering inclusion of this scheme under the scope of Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) which would make the scheme applicable globally, and enable Missions and Consulates to provide assistance directly to distressed Indian women. The process of revision of ICWF guidelines is presently ongoing in the Ministry.
(d) Ministry is empowering the aggrieved Indian women by providing information and guidance about procedures, mechanisms for serving judicial summons on the overseas Indian husband; filing a case in India; issuing Look out Circulars; impounding and revocation of Indian passport of the husband; getting access to lawyers and NGOs empanelled with Indian Missions etc.

To make information about the above scheme more accessible Ministry has posted on its website following:

a. Guidelines about the scheme and application form.

b. FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) in Hindi and English which provide information and guidance to aggrieved women about various options available to them. FAQs are also disseminated to petitioners who approach Ministry.

c. A compilation of legal provisions in countries where the problem is more prevalent w.r.t ex-parte divorce, child custody, maintenance, etc.

d. List of Indian Women's Organizations, Indian Community Organisations, Lawyers, and NGOs empanelled with Indian Mission/Posts abroad.

e. List of Law Firms which assist Indian Nationals in distress.